36. (New)   The method of claim 33, wherein said sample is contacted with an antibody specific for said A2M-2 variant.

37. (New)   The method of claim 35, wherein said sample is contacted with an antibody specific for said α_2M-1 variant.

38. (New)   A method used to aid in the diagnosis of AD comprising isotyping a sample taken from an individual, wherein said sample comprises α_2M, to determine whether said sample contains the α_2M-2 variant.

39. (New)   The method of claim 38, wherein said individual is suspected to have Alzheimer's disease.

40. (New)   The method of claim 39, further comprising drawing a conclusion regarding the diagnosis of said individual based on the existence of the α_2M-2 variant in said sample, wherein a finding that said sample contains said α_2M-2 variant is an indicator that said individual has AD.

41. (New)   The method of claim 38, further comprising isotyping said sample to determine whether said sample contains the α_2M-1 variant.

42. (New)   The method of claim 38, wherein said sample is contacted with an antibody specific for said A2M-2 variant.

43. (New)   The method of claim 38, wherein said sample is contacted with an antibody specific for said α_2M-1 variant.